

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Pires *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/986,750

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: **Method for Removing a Universal  
Linker from an Oligonucleotide**

Confirmation No.: 5957

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: Schultz, James

Atty. Docket: 0942.5080001/RWE/CJW

**Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

***Mail Stop RCE***

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for filing a further reply after filing Notice of Appeal on September 11, 2003, be extended five months from November 11, 2003 to April 11, 2004 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$1,900.00 for a five month extension for a large entity (\$110.00 having already been paid for the first month's extension). Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

04/09/2004 CNGUYEN 00000105 09986750

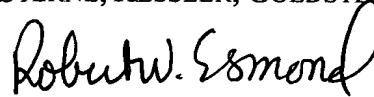
02 FC:1255

1900.00 DP

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Esmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Robert W. Esmond  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,893

Date: April 8, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600